

REMARKS

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated March 4, 2003, requiring election between the claims of Species a (Figures 1-2 and 5); b (Figure 3); c (Figure 4); and d (Figure 5). The Examiner acknowledges that at least claim 1 appears to be generic. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended prior to examination on the merits. Claim ~~10~~¹¹ now depends from claim 1 as opposed to claim 10.

WC4
6/24/03

Based on the review of the claims, the following claims appear to be associated with each of the species:

Species a: 1-9, 11, 13

Species b: 1-9, 10, 13

Species c: 1-9, 10, 12-13

Species d: 1-9, 10, 13-14

Applicants elect the claims of Species d (Figure 6) with traverse. Particularly in view of the generic nature of claims 1-9 and 13, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will be required to search art related to the various species as part of the analysis of the generic claims. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that species b is sub-generic to both species c and d and that the search for art related to species d will necessarily encompass species b. Species b (Figure 3) is directed to a special structure for fixing cones 12' and 14' including an outer tube shaft 50 and a stepped diameter inner tube shaft 52. The same structure is used for species c and d. Species c, however, does additionally include a compound cone and a third cone while species d includes an inter-shaft yoke and a deep reduction box.

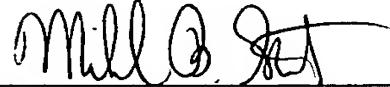
Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the four species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one of the three species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other species. See MPEP § 803, which states that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” (Emphasis added). This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the election is made with traverse as to Species a through d.

It is believed that no additional fees are due with respect to this paper. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 1, 2003

By:


Michael B. Stewart, Reg. No. 36,018
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
39533 Woodward Avenue, Suite 140
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304

Customer No. 010291

Telephone No. (248) 594-0600

R0181615.DOC